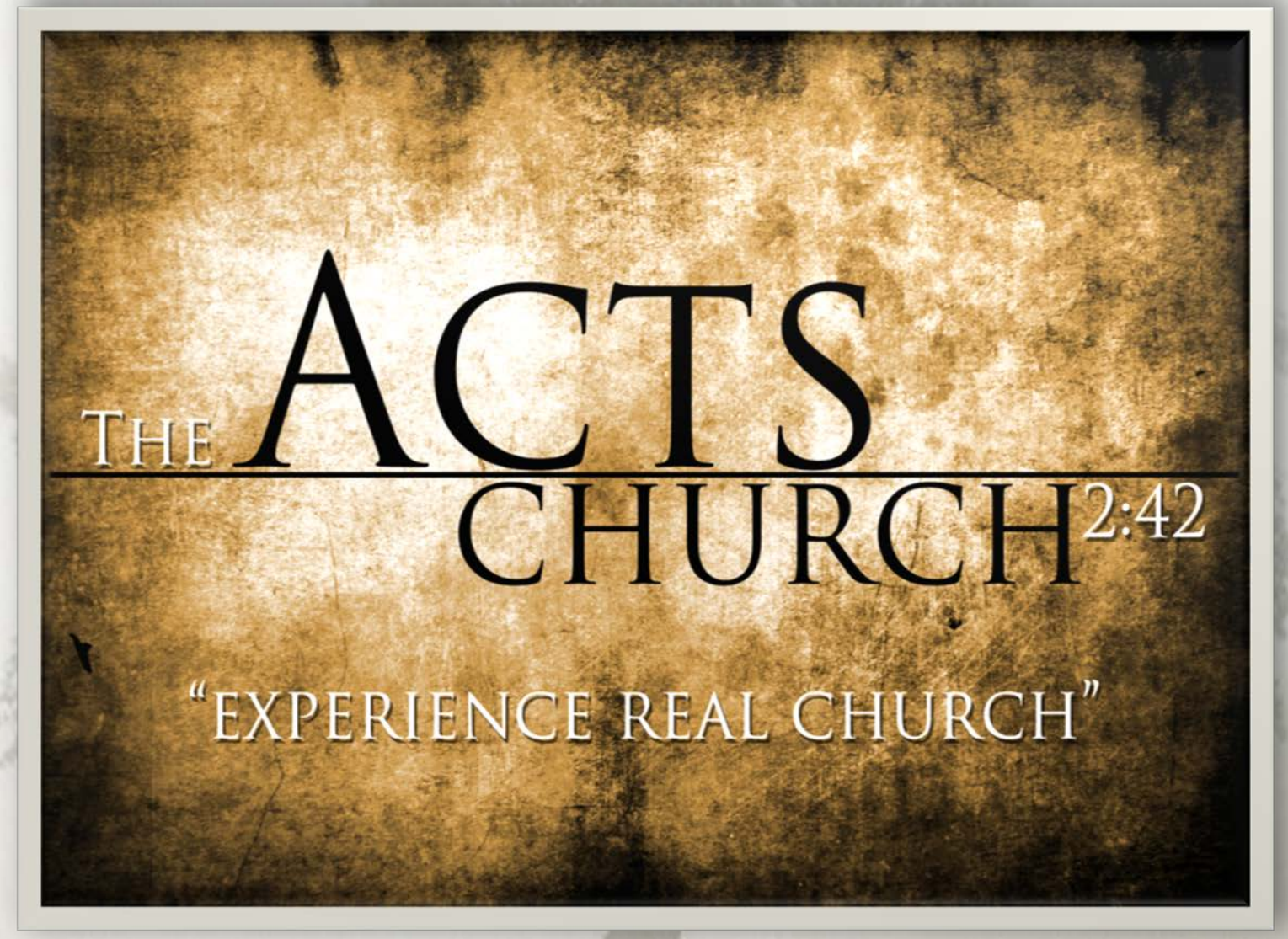

THE ACTS CHURCH 2:42
"EXPERIENCE REAL CHURCH"

# TEXT: *Acts 4:31-5:11 KJV*

And when they had prayed, the place was shaken where they were assembled together; and they were all filled with the Holy Ghost, and they spake the word of God with boldness. (32) And the multitude of them that believed were of one heart and of one soul: neither said any *of them* that ought of the things which he possessed was his own; but they had all things common. (33) And with great power gave the apostles witness of the resurrection of the Lord Jesus: and great grace was upon them all. (34) Neither was there any among them that lacked: for as many as were possessors of lands or houses sold them, and brought the prices of the things that were sold, (35) And laid *them* down at the apostles' feet: and distribution was made unto every man according as he had need. (36) And Joses, who by the apostles was surnamed Barnabas, (which is, being interpreted, The son of consolation,) a Levite, *and* of the country of Cyprus, (37) Having land, sold *it,* and brought the money, and laid *it* at the apostles' feet. (5:1) But a certain man named Ananias, with Sapphira his wife, sold a possession, (2) And kept back *part* of the price, his wife also being privy *to it,* and brought a certain part, and laid *it* at the apostles' feet. (3) But Peter said, Ananias, why hath Satan filled thine heart to lie to the Holy Ghost, and to keep back *part* of the price of the land? (4) Whiles it remained, was it not thine own? and after it was sold, was it not in thine own power? why hast thou conceived this thing in thine heart? thou hast not lied unto men, but unto God. (5) And Ananias hearing these words fell down, and gave up the ghost: and great fear came on all them that heard these things. (6) And the young men arose, wound him up, and carried *him* out, and buried *him.* (7) And it was about the space of three hours after, when his wife, not knowing what was done, came in. (8) And Peter answered unto her, Tell me whether ye sold the land for so much? And she said, Yea, for so much. (9) Then Peter said unto her, How is it that ye have agreed together to tempt the Spirit of the Lord? behold, the feet of them which have buried thy husband *are* at the door, and shall carry thee out. (10) Then fell she down straightway at his feet, and yielded up the ghost: and the young men came in, and found her dead, and, carrying *her* forth, buried *her* by her husband. (11) And great fear came upon all the church, and upon as many as heard these things.

# INTRO: *Great Power - Great Grace - Great Fear*

It is unfortunate that the Chapter numbers divided this story at the midway point. Verse 1 of Chapter 5 acknowledges that this is a comparative of two types of "***church members***."

***True Believers or Not?*** – God does not play around with sin nor sinners!

Some might say that Ananias and Sapphira illustrate the "***Wheat and the Tares***" – Others might claim that they were believers committing the ***sin unto death*** ***1 John 5:16-17 KJV*** *If any man see his brother sin a sin which is not unto death, he shall ask, and he shall give him life for them that sin not unto death. There is a sin unto death: I do not say that he shall pray for it.* (17) *All unrighteousness is sin: and there is a sin not unto death.*

# I. *Great Power – Great Grace*

***Acts 4:31-33 KJV***

And when they had prayed, the place was shaken where they were assembled together; and they were all filled with the Holy Ghost, and they spake the word of God with boldness. (32) And the multitude of them that believed were of one heart and of one soul: neither said any *of them* that ought of the things which he possessed was his own; but they had all things common. (33) And with ***great power*** gave the apostles witness of the resurrection of the Lord Jesus: and ***great grace*** was upon them all.

***The Holy Spirit had come – Thousands were born-again – The Church was birthed – God was moving on the earth through His church in Power!***

# II. *True Disciple vs Hypocrite*

***Acts 4:34-37 KJV***

Neither was there any among them that lacked: for as many as were possessors of lands or houses sold them, and brought the prices of the things that were sold, (35) And laid *them* down at the apostles' feet: and distribution was made unto every man according as he had need. (36) And Joses, who by the apostles was surnamed ***Barnabas***, (which is, being interpreted, The son of consolation,) a Levite, *and* of the country of Cyprus, (37) ***Having land, sold it, and brought the money, and laid it at the apostles' feet.***

***Acts 5:1-4 KJV***

But a certain man named ***Ananias***, with ***Sapphira*** his wife, ***sold a possession,*** (2) ***And kept back part of the price, his wife also being privy to it, and brought a certain part, and laid it at the apostles' feet***. (3) But Peter said, Ananias, why hath Satan filled thine heart to lie to the Holy Ghost, and to keep back *part* of the price of the land? (4) Whiles it remained, was it not thine own? and after it was sold, was it not in thine own power? why hast thou conceived this thing in thine heart? thou hast not lied unto men, but unto God.

***The Lord judges sin severely. He purges His church***!

Very similar to

Joshua 7 on Achan is His judgment upon Ananias & Sapphira

***1 Corinthians 10:11 KJV***

Now all these things happened unto them for ensamples: and they are written for our admonition, upon whom the ends of the world are come.

***1 Timothy 4:1-2 KJV***

Now the Spirit speaketh expressly, that in the latter times some shall depart from the faith, giving heed to seducing spirits, and doctrines of devils; (2) Speaking lies in hypocrisy; having their conscience seared with a hot iron;

***Matthew 7:15-20 KJV***

Beware of false prophets, which come to you in sheep's clothing, but inwardly they are ravening wolves. (16) Ye shall know them by their fruits. Do men gather grapes of thorns, or figs of thistles? (17) Even so every good tree bringeth forth good fruit; but a corrupt tree bringeth forth evil fruit. (18) A good tree cannot bring forth evil fruit, neither *can* a corrupt tree bring forth good fruit. (19) Every tree that bringeth not forth good fruit is hewn down, and cast into the fire. (20) ***Wherefore by their fruits ye shall know them.***

# III. *Great Fear*

***Proverbs 1:7 KJV*** The fear of the LORD *is* the beginning of knowledge: *but* fools despise wisdom and instruction.

***Proverbs 2:1-5 KJV***

My son, if thou wilt receive my words, and hide my commandments with thee; (2) So that thou incline thine ear unto wisdom, *and* apply thine heart to understanding; (3) Yea, if thou criest after knowledge, *and* liftest up thy voice for understanding; (4) If thou seekest her as silver, and searchest for her as *for* hid treasures; (5) Then shalt thou understand ***the fear of the LORD***, and find the knowledge of God.

What's it going to take to bring the church to the place of total surrender – to wake up from the slumber?

What will it take for you to experience the Great Fear of the Lord?

Side note – Look at Acts 5:3-4 Peter uses a passive way to express that the Holy Spirit is in fact God, The Holy Spirit